

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Encroachment of Forts
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is not able to protect forts from encroachments in various States of the country including the Tughlaqabad Fort in Delhi;
- (b) whether it is true that ASI have slackened in enforcing the orders of Apex Court in this regard;
- (c) whether the Delhi High Court has recently directed to protect, maintain and preserve the Tughlaqabad Fort; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard to protect the forts from encroachments?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a)&(b) No, Madam.

(c)&(d) Yes, Madam. The Superintending Archaeologists of Archaeological Survey of India are authorised to issue show cause notices against encroachers under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958 and Rules 1959 followed by a direction to the District Collector/ Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment under section 19(1) and 19 (2) of the Act and Rule 38 (2). They are also vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Further, assistance is also sought from the respective State Governments/police, failing which cases are filed in the court of law against the encroachers. In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments. In the case of Tughlaqabad Fort, ASI has initiated actions against the encroachments by issuing show-cause notices as well as demolition orders under Section 19(1) and 19(2) of the AMASR Act, 1958.